GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:4372
ANSWERED ON:07.05.2007
IMPORT OF PULSES
Jha Shri Raghunath

Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has decided to import additional fifteen lakh tonnes of pulses to contain price rise and improve availability;

(b) if so, the details thereof indicating the quantum, price, importing agencies and time-frame fixed for the said imports;

(c) the rate at which the same is proposed to be sold in the market;

(d) the difference in the price of indigenous and imported pulses;

(e) whether the Government proposes to import edible oil also during the current year in view of its rising prices; and

(f) if so, the details thereof?

Answer

MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI SHARAD PAWAR)

(a) to (c): The Government recently took a decision to import 1.5.million tonnes of pulses such as Urad, Tur, Moong, Masur, Gram and yellow peas through National Agricultural Cooperative Marketing Federation of India Ltd (NAFED), MMTC Ltd, PEC Ltd and State Trading Corporation (STC). The imported pulses will be sold by these agencies through public tenders. The supply of imported pulses will augment domestic availability and thus help in containing the rise in prices. The details of import of pulses by the 4 agencies as on 25.4.2007 are given below:

(in metric tonnes)

Organisation	Item	Contracted Quantity	Quantity arrived (at port)
PEC Ltd.	Urad	19000	5000
	Moong	9000	2000
	Tur	10000	4000
	TOTAL (PEC)	38000	11000
MMTC Ltd	Urad	3000	0
	Moong	1000	980
	Tur	20000	4680
	Dunpeas	2000	0
	Yellow peas	53000	0
	TOTAL (MMTC)	79000	5580
NAFED	Urad	65000	19874
	Moong	5000	4440
	TOTAL (NAFED)	70000	24314
STC	Urad	30000	11145
	Yellowpeas	70000	0
	TOTAL(STC)	100000	11145

GRAND TOTAL 2,87,000 52,039

The prices of imported pulses are being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

(d): Information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

(e): Edible oils are under Open General Licence (OGL) of the Foreign Trade Policy of the Government. Since there has been a continuous excess of demand over domestic supply, import of edible oils is being resorted to augment domestic availability. However, the Government at present do not propose to import edible oils.

(f): Does not arise.